

ALGWA Northern Territory Branch Inc
GPO Box 3974 DARWIN NT 0801

November 2012.

Northern Territory Branch 2012-2013



The Executive Committee elected for the 2012-2013 term -

President

Pam Robinson OAM, City of Palmerston, Environment & Climate Change Strategic Planner.

pam.robinson@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Vice-President

Clair O'Brien - Farmer, formerly Deputy Mayor, Roper Gulf Shire.

ctz.obrien@bigpond.com

Secretary

Alderman Helen Galton, City of Darwin

h.galton@darwin.nt.gov.au

Treasurer

Alderman Sue McKinnon, City of Palmerston

sue.mckinnon@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Committee Members

Councillor Veronica Birrell, Victoria Daly Shire.

Kerry Moir - formerly Alderman Darwin City Council and President LGANT.

Anne Hammond - City of Darwin, Manager of Strategies and Outcomes.

Hello from President Pam

How amazing; the end of the year is just about upon us! I know the saying is 'Time flies when you are having fun' - BUT I think for all of us it is also that time has gone very quickly because we are all running very full agendas and diaries.

In view of this, some 'Christmas Cheer' is being provided for Members of ALGWA NT – details of which are provided by Secretary Helen at the end of the Newsletter.

ALGWANT will be running a Breakfast Meeting 8 February 2013.

Please see Helen's information on this event so you can lock it into your 2013 Diary. We are delighted to have secured our guest speaker, Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Drysdale.

Please consider bringing a guest to the Breakfast.

The Breakfast Meeting on 8 February is an opportunity for you to consider inviting your CEO/Director/Manager and/or a female/male colleague and/or Local Government interested friend. Just make sure you book your guest as soon as possible to get it into their Diary. Please confirm with Helen whether you are one to two people attending and make payment at the time of booking.

I am delighted to say, my guest at the breakfast will be Ricki Bruhn, CEO City of Palmerston. Ricki has given keen support to ALGWANT; firstly by indicating support to me personally when the nomination for President ALGWANT 2012-2013 came up; further, agreement for me as President ALGWANT to attend the National ALGWA Conference and an opportunity to provide our ALGWANT Newsletter to LGMANT.

Ricki is President of Local Government Managers Association (LGMANT). The connection of ALGWA and LGMA in the 50:50 Vision for Councils for Gender Equity is strong and both organisations are committed to ensuring Local Government is an employer of choice with clear diversity agendas.

In March 2013 LGMANT will be hosting the Territory 'LGMA Management Challenge'. NT Council staff will again participate in this excellent Team Building Program. The City of Darwin won the 2012 NT LGMA Management Challenge and went on to compete nationally. During the time of the 2013 Challenge, there is a proposal for Council attendance at a Dinner Function. More on that will be known later.

Consider this -

I want to recommend a very good read to you – a timely publication that came out in September.

A Switch in Time – restoring respect to Australian politics.

Written by Mary Crooks, ED Victorian Women's Trust and writer/commentator in leading print and electronic media.

Copies are free of charge bar postage and handling. Visit website at www.vwt.org.au or email women@vwt.org.au

November Profile

Alderman Helen Galton, Secretary ALGWANT



Helen is a proud Territorian and has enjoyed a very busy life in her lead-up to being elected as an Alderman on the City of Darwin and is currently in her fourth term. Local Government is in her blood (fourth generation) and she thrives on grass roots government. She is privileged to be representing the heart beat of the Darwin municipality - the Lyons Ward – in Australia's most modern capital city.

She has been an Executive member of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory since 2004 and was formerly the General Manager of Tourism Top End and is currently acting in that role. Tourism is one of her passions and she enjoys nothing more than being home and taking in the pleasures that Darwin offers.

Her other passions include cycling, walking, current affairs, politics and charity work. Her chosen charity is Variety, the children's charity in the Northern Territory and was the Chief Barker (Chairman) and Bash Chairman on two occasions.

She has worked on the staff of Ministers' for Tourism and Local Government and has lived in Darwin for 28 years and Alice Springs for 2 years.

Helen is involved in a range of government, business and community work and has been on a number of Boards including the Vice President (Municipal) of the Local Government Association NT, former Vice President of the Automobile Association of the Northern Territory (AANT), the Northern Territory Secretary (formerly the President for four years) of the Australian Local Government Women's Association NT, Chairman of the Town Planning Committee and Chairman of the Community and Cultural Services Committee. Given her active lifestyle it is no surprise that she was a physical education teacher!

Helen was born in Hamilton, Victoria and is the eldest of 5 girls. She attended primary and secondary school in Hamilton and her tertiary education in Sydney graduating as a physical education teacher in 1970. She married Richard in 1973 and spent the first two years of married life living in London. She has three grown up children, William, Georgia and Charles.

The best thing that has happened to Helen recently is being blessed with a beautiful grandson and she spends as much time as possible with him and her family.

50: 50 Vision – Councils for Gender Equity

Three Local Governments in the Northern Territory now hold the **Bronze** Award – Tiwi Islands Shire Council, City of Darwin and City of Palmerston. "Onwards and Upwards" to the Silver Award!

The following Councils were awarded their 50:50 Vision 'Councils for Gender Equity' Certificates at the National ALGWA Conference Gala Dinner on 10 November at Ipswich.

BRONZE

Scenic Rim Regional Council, Qld
Gosford City Council, NSW
City of Perth, WA
Central Highlands Regional Council, Qld
City of Palmerston, NT
Southern Downs Regional Council, QLD
Shellharbour City Council
City of Salisbury

SILVER

Broken Hill City Council, NSW
Kogarah Council, NSW
Ryde City Council, NSW

The new Tender for the future roll out of the Councils for Gender Equity has been awarded to the Local Government Managers Association Queensland (LGMAQ). The opportunity to have the program undertaken by the LGMA in association with ALGWA will provide greater understanding of the Award system at senior management level.

A major objective of the **50:50 Vision** is the promotion of long term cultural change on gender equality. It is designed to promote *innovation, best practice* and *diversity of talent* and to be an important component of a council's workforce strategy.

2012 ALGWA National Conference, Ipswich 9 & 10 November.

Northern Territory Delegates attending were: -

Pam Robinson, City of Palmerston and as President of ALGWA NT,
Clair O'Brien, Vice President ALGWA NT,
Mayor Lynette de Santis, Tiwi Islands Shire Council
Councillor Therese Bourke, Tiwi Islands Shire Council and
Amber Garden, City of Darwin.

There would have been a few more delegates from the Northern Territory, but as we know a very important Local Government meeting was taking place in Alice Springs during the same dates. Victoria too was lower on attendance as a result of their very recent elections and an Induction Day for new Councillors being held on 9 November. ALGWA National Conference was however attended by approximately 80 delegates representing all States and Territories.

Mayor Lynette de Santis managed to attend Alice Springs for the Mayors Meeting and then came on to Ipswich where as a guest speaker Lynette provided delegates with a great insight into her journey to becoming Mayor of Tiwi Island Shire Council.

The Conference started with a warm welcome from the Mayor of Ipswich at an early evening reception the night before the conference, held at the Art Gallery.

The Conference program "The Future of Local Government, *Resilience, Resolve and Relationships – New Age 3Rs*" lined up an impressive range of presenters who provided *in depth* practical professional information and ideas.

Topics included the White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation Program which many Councils are implementing into their suite of HR commitments; Cultural Diversity, Customer Service v Customer Focus, Global Issues impacting on Our Work (Community/Town Planning), Progressing the issue of women in Leadership, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving; and

With poignancy and significance, following the Queensland Floods an excellent presentation by the Mayor Steve Jones and Mr. Jamie Simmonds, Planner, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, spoke to 'Addressing Disaster Risk and Enhancing Resilience – The Strengthening Grantham Project'.

Interestingly also, Jude Munro, former CEO of Brisbane City Council and known to many of us, was the consultant who worked with the Council to effectively run a Community Development program for the revival of Grantham.

The 'Strengthening Grantham Project' showed Local Government at its best; moving on very quickly from a sense of an 'all is lost' scenario, to a one of a positive future.

How in a short time some major decisions were made by Council for a 'land swop' of the flooded township land to provide higher ground to enable a new township to be built - thus providing the community with a positive reason to stay and build in 'their' Grantham – rather than shifting away.



Kathy Bensted is the new *National President, Australian Local Government Women's Association*. Kathy a former President of ALGWA QLD, was a Councillor for the Scenic Rim Regional Council. Although disappointed not to be re-elected in the recent Council elections in Queensland, her interest in Local Government is still strong and Kathy has taken on her new role as National President with gusto. We look forward to welcoming Kathy to ALGWANT at some stage during her 2 year Presidency.

Some Photographs from the Conference: Left to Right:

Top Row: ALGWANT President Pam with Therese Rein, (Founder & MD – Ingeus); Hon. Margaret Reynolds, Chair, Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government with an Ipswich Councillor; Conference delegates 'in session'; the newly elected ALGWA National Board and delegates to the National Board from Tas, WA, SA, Vic, Qld, NSW and NT.

Second Row: Cr.Elizabeth Re, City of Stirling, Pam Robinson, City of Palmerston & Cr. Karen McKeown, Penrith City Council - three of the 2010 National Ambassadors for the Year of Women in Local Government in attendance at the 2012 National Conference;

The Northern Territory ALGWA Mob – Cr. Therese Bourke and Mayor Lynette de Santis, Tiwi Islands Shire; Pam Robinson, City of Palmerston; ALGWANT Vice President Clair O'Brien and Amber Garden, City of Darwin; Mayors, Councillors, Speakers at the Conference Dinner.

Third Row: Pam Robinson, receiving on behalf of the City of Palmerston, the **Bronze** Award Certificate from Australian Government representative, Shayne Newman, MP.



I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible who can attend 'Christmas Cheer' on 12 December.

To all members "Happy Christmas" and all the very best for good health and happiness and continuing contributions to Local Government, in 2013.

The next ALGWANT Newsletter will be late January.

Regards
Pam

President ALGWA NT
pam.robinson@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Secretary's Notes:

How time flies! It only seems like yesterday that Pam and I were touching base with you.

Pam, Clair, Lynette, Therese and Amber certainly flew the ALGWA Northern Territory's colours at the Annual Conference and thank you all for attending. From all reports it was a successful conference.

Santa is just around the corner and we look forward to welcoming you to our **Christmas Party** (and a chance to win a bottle of Moet) on Wednesday 12 December. Please come along to Nautilus, Unit 25, 20 Marina Parade, Cullen Bay from 5.30pm to 7pm. RSVP to me on h.galton@darwin.nt.gov.au or sms me on 0400659661.

And put 8 February 2013 in your diaries for our ALGWA NT breakfast with Lia Finnochiaro MLA for Drysdale at the il Lido restaurant, Darwin Waterfront. Please bring a friend/s with you. The cost is still being finalised and you will be notified in a final Christmas update.

That is all for now.

Stay safe and happy and enjoy the festive season.

Helen